

Great Games GAZETTE

Milwaukee, Wisconsin ~ June 19 – 23, 2007



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How Do They Do That?

There are 17 competitive events taking place at the 2007 National Veterans Wheelchair Games, plus two exhibitions and one demonstration clinic. Some of the better-known events such as swimming, archery and bowling are fairly self-explanatory, but there are certainly others that might spur the question, “*How do they do that?*”

What comes to mind when you hear power soccer, quad rugby or wheelchair slalom, for instance? Do you know the requirements to compete in those events?



Power Soccer: This is a competitive sport for athletes who use a four-wheeled power wheelchair. It is played on a basketball court by four-member teams using a special 18-inch diameter soccer ball. The object is to score points by pushing the ball across the opponent’s goal line using the power chairs only, not any part of the player’s body. The ball cannot be contacted while it is bouncing higher than one foot, so players have to wait until the ball stops bouncing before it can be maneuvered. This event provides an opportunity for a competitive team sport for power wheelchair users, typically quadriplegics.



Quad Rugby: Quad rugby is played by quadriplegic athletes on a basketball

court. It also has four-member teams, but uses a volleyball. The object is to carry the ball across the opponent’s goal line with any two wheels of the wheelchair. The ball may be passed, thrown, batted, rolled, dribbled or carried. Quad rugby has long been featured at the National Veterans Wheelchair Games, but the sport had a resurgence of interest after the 2005 documentary movie, “*Murderball.*”



Slalom: A true wheelchair sport, there is no able-bodied counterpart to this event. The slalom competition is a true test of agility, strength, skill and speed around a challenging obstacle course. Athletes must maneuver their wheelchairs through a course of cones, different size ramps, platforms, slopes, hurdles, textured surfaces, low-head clearance objects and bridges – going both forward and backward. Missing any of the gates results in disqualification and each cone they hit adds one second to the actual time. There is also a motorized slalom event for athletes who use motorized wheelchairs.

We hope we have piqued your interest in a few of the events being offered this year, and that you will stop by to watch all of the competitive sports taking place at the 2007 Games. See you there!

Special Events During Games Week

Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Game Wednesday, June 20 1 p.m.

Open to veteran athletes (and one attendant, if needed.) Transportation will be provided. A limited number of tickets are available. Sign up at the hospitality booth in the convention center.

Harley Davidson Tour Thursday, June 21 Tour times: 9:30 and 10:30 a.m.; and 12 noon

Twenty-three tickets are available for each tour. Transportation will be provided. Veteran athletes who wish to attend (and one attendant, if needed) should sign up at the hospitality booth in the convention center.

Preregister Now! Jazz in the Park Thursday, June 21 7 - 9 p.m.

Cathedral Square Park (about one mile from the Games hotels). Athletes and family members are welcome to attend this “straight ahead” Jazz concert featuring the group “We Six.” The local special events

committee needs to know how many people are interested in attending to reserve space and make arrangements for food. If you are interested, contact Kris Kulas by June 13 to pre-register at (toll free) 1 (888) 469-6614, extension 41688; or by e-mail at: kris.kulas@va.gov

A Hair Raze-ing Fundraiser!

Milwaukee's National Veterans Wheelchair Games Local Coordinator Brian Walker and Co-Chairs Dr. Ken Lee and Dean Martell (also known as the *Three Amigos*), made an agreement with the local VA Employee Association that if they raised more than \$40,000 for the Games, the Three Amigos would voluntarily join the "Bald is Beautiful" Club.



Left to right: Pat Horn, Dean Martell, Eileen Wilson

PVA Sports Director
Andy Kreiger works on
Dr. Lee



Because the Employee Association surpassed their goal, the three men sheared their lovely locks on March 1 (hoping their hair would grow back before the start of the Games).

Upcoming Fundraisers

Golf Outing

Saturday, May 5

Start times are 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Muskego Lakes Country Club

Muskego, Wisconsin

Team and individual registration are both available.

Lunch and dinner are included.

To register, call Kim Michalowski at (414) 902-5706.

Boogie Woogie Bugle Bash

Friday, May 11

7 - 11 p.m.

Richfield Chalet

1271 Highway 175

Hubertus, Wisconsin

Casual dress; \$15 per person.

For more information, call Trish Horn at (262) 470-7080

Motorcycle Ride

Sunday, June 3

Bikes will leave from the VA Regional Office parking lot for a scenic ride to Holy Hill, then on to Heaven City in Mukwonago for a hog roast and musical entertainment. You do not have to ride to be part of the fun! Meet the group at Heaven City and enjoy the food and music. For more information, call the Heaven City Restaurant at (262) 363-5191, after 2 p.m.

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TO DO IN MILWAUKEE THINGS

Continued from last Gazette...

10. Milwaukee Public

Museum – wander amid free-flying butterflies or stroll down the historic Streets of the Old Milwaukee exhibit.

11. Pabst Mansion

– learn the legacy of Captain Pabst, the famous beer baron.

12. Eisner-American Museum of Advertising

– chronicles the history of advertising and design, and its impact on our culture.

13. Harley Davidson

– tour the facility where Sportster and Buell powertrains are manufactured.

14. Brewery Tours

– tour one of Milwaukee's famous breweries, which include the Miller, Specher or Lakefront breweries.

15. Potawatomi Bingo Casino

– a popular destination that provides gaming, live entertainment and specialty restaurants.

16. Old World Wisconsin

– about an hour from Milwaukee, this outdoor museum of living history

depicts the rural life of Wisconsin in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

17. Boerner Botanical

Gardens – a beautiful, formal garden located within an extensive parks and arboretum. The garden paths are wheelchair accessible.

18. Historic Third Ward

– enjoy the ambiance present in this turn-of-the-century trendy neighborhood.

19. Milwaukee Lakefront

– stroll along fabulous Lake Michigan.

Stay tuned for more Things To Do...